

Claim 1 (amended):

A method for producing *Pasteuria* endospores *in vitro*, said method comprising introducing *Pasteuria* into a growth medium, wherein said growth medium comprises a microorganism or a chemical compound produced by a microorganism, wherein said microorganism is found in association with nematodes and has DNA which hybridizes with SEQ ID NO. 1 under moderate to high stringency conditions; wherein said method comprises growing the *Pasteuria* in said growth medium, and obtaining said endospores.

Claim 4 (amended):

The method, according to claim [3] 1, wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Enterobacter cloacae* and *Pantoea* spp.

Claim 5 (amended):

The method, according to claim 3, wherein said microorganism has all the identifying characteristics of ATCC [] PTA-2324.